

LAW & LEGAL

MAY 4, 2026

The Law & Legal Committee held its monthly meeting on Monday, May 4, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was held at the McDonough County Courthouse, 3rd Floor, Law Library. Committee Members present included Committee Chair Joe Erlandson, Vice Chair Ken Durkin, Clayton Cook, Travis Hiel, Roger Ward, and Terry Thompson. Other persons in attendance were Darcie Shinberger, Riley Smith, Ric Smart, Deborah Cousins, Sheriff Nick Petitgout, County Chair Eric Blakeley, Deputy Clerk Kyah Beck, and County Clerk Jeremy Benson. Member Ryan Litchfield was absent. Jack Lowderman is vacant.

Chair Erlandson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Review & Approve April 6, 2026 Minutes

Member Durkin moved with a second by Member Thompson to approve the minutes with corrections. Motion carried on a voice vote.

Waste Management Update

Report received and filed.

Tri-County Recycling

Report received and filed.

Veteran's Assistance and Van Report

Ric Smart gave the report. 11 Veterans were given assistance in April. Total assistance amounted to \$2,649.00. Ric has not gotten any updates pertaining to the possible memorandum of understanding that was to be made.

Sheriff's Report

Sheriff Nick Petitgout gave the report. Three vehicles were confirmed to be totaled. The money from insurance will be used to get a new and equipped vehicle. Sheriff Petitgout stated that Robbie Phelps is doing a great job as the Chief Deputy, and is adjusting well. Nick also informed the committee that an awards ceremony will be held at the board meeting on May 20th.

Assessor's Office Update

Assessor Deborah Cousins gave the report. Deborah has been having issues with a solar site for assessment and was told by the Donato Solar attorney, "that they do not fall under the Commercial Solar Energy Systems Valuation. The power is not sold, but primarily consumed onsite. Excess power, if any, may be fed back to the grid. This is a behind the meter system". Therefore, it is not assessable. Deborah will be meeting with the City of Macomb to discuss this matter.

Claims Review and Approval

Member Cook moved with a second by Member Thompson to approve the claims as submitted. Motion carried on a voice vote.

Other Items as Needed

None.

Executive Session

None.

Public Comment

None.

County Board Chair Comments

Eric spoke about an insurance meeting that will be held May 13th for members to come and ask questions if they have any. Keith Krohe will be there to give updates. Eric also informed the committee of the new Lifeguard contract that will take effect May 5th, and will be valid for a year. During this time, Eric would like to get a board formed to oversee the ambulance system. Blakeley introduced Riley Smith who will be voted in at the next board meeting to replace Jack Lowderman.

Adjourn

Member Hiel moved with a second by Member Ward to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 p.m. Motion carried on a voice vote.